

PATENT

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

SIR :

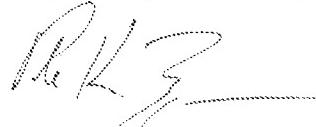
This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed pursuant to the duty of disclosure, candor, and good faith embodied in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97 owed by the inventor, the inventor's assignee substantively involved in the application, and the patent attorney to the United States Patent and Trademark Office. It is respectfully requested that this Information Disclosure Statement be entered and the reference(s) listed on the attached PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner and made of record.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d), copies of the listed references are attached.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), (h), this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as representation that a search has been made, and is not to be construed to be an admission that the information disclosed is, or is considered to be, prior art with respect to the present application or material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. This Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that no other material information, as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, exists.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after receipt of the first Office Action reflecting an examination on merits. Thus, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), a fee is due. Should any additional fees be deemed necessary, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or to credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 50-0235.

Respectfully submitted,



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